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David Smith honored for 24 years' service

By FRANCES H. PAULETTE

David Marye Smith retired on Tuesday, December 1 after 24 years of service with the Virginia Division of Forestry.

Smith, the son of Mrs. David Lee Smith and the late Mr. Smith, was born and reared in Appomattox County and began working for the Division of Forestry in 1957.

On November 24, Dr. Samuel Robert Lawson, Chairman of the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors, presented Smith with a plaque from the county commending him for the protection and management of the forest resources of the County of Appomattox for the past 24 years.

"For nearly a quarter of a century, when you thought of a forest fire in the county, you probably thought of David Smith," commented Wayne Bowman, Forester for Appomattox County.

Smith began work with the division in 1957 as the county's first full time Chief Forest Warden and has served in that capacity during his 24 years of active service.

During his first year on the job, Smith divided his time between working on the Buckingham-Appomattox State Forest and fire prevention and fire suppression in the County of Appomattox. After the first year on the job, however, Smith worked full-time in Appomattox County.

"Smith has either done or supervised most, if not all, of the site preparation and tree planting on private land in this county since he began working for the Division of Forestry," commented Bowman.

"In the past 24 years, Smith has located contractors to plant trees, to push firelines, to prescribe burn cut over woodland, to hand release pine and he has performed countless other services," added Bowman.

Born and reared on a farm, a lover of the out of doors, Smith plans to spend more time gardening, an activity which is already one of his favorite hobbies.

"I might even try fishing," laughed Smith, "if I can learn how to be a good fisherman."

Smith is married to the former Bessie Carter of Buckingham and they have one daughter, Diane Smith Kesterton of Lynchburg. The Smiths are members of Hollywood Baptist Church.

"The people who have worked with David and all of the people of Appomattox County will surely miss his help in protecting and managing the woodlands of Appomattox County," concluded Bowman.

DAVID M. SMITH, (left), accepts plaque from Dr. S. R. Lawson, Chairman, Appomattox County Board Of Supervisors. The plaque was presented to Smith in appreciation for 24 years of dedicated service to his job of Chief Forest Warden in this county. Smith retired from the Forestry Service December 1.

ROBERT THACKSTON [center], Manager of District Office of Social Security, was recent guest speaker for the American Legion Post 104, Appomattox. Thackston, who has been with the Social Security Administration for approximately 20 years, discussed "Operation Social Security.....What Has Created Problems With SS Trust Fund and Remedies Now Before Congress." Seated, [left], is Dennis Gragg, and Charles T. Moses, [right], both members of American Legion Post 104.

Sayler's Creek story

Famous battle recounted

By HARRIETT A. CHILTON

Robert E. Lee Chapter #56, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Fall Church, Va.

The Battle of Sayler's Creek sounded the death knell of the Confederate Army. In this last major engagement of the War between the States, General Robert E. Lee lost almost a third of his forces. Many generals were captured, including Ewell, Barton, Corse, Kershaw and Custis Lee, General Lee's oldest son. Also, almost eight thousand troops were captured here by the Federal Army, as well as cannon, ammunition and wagons (about 350 wagons were burned, including those containing General Lee's military papers). Losing this battle led to General Lee's military papers). Losing this battle led to General Lee's surrender three days later at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia.

The battle took place on April 6, 1865 near the junction of Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties, about sixty miles west of Richmond, Virginia. Today the battle is called Sayler's Creek but contemporary writers referred to it as Sailor's Creek or Little Sailor's Creek. There is a state historical marker on U. S. Route 460 at Rice in Prince Edward County which reads as follows:

"Six miles north took place the battle of Sailor's Creek, April 6, 1965. Lee's army, retreating westward from Amelia Courthouse to Farmville by way of Deatonsville, was attacked by Sheridan, who surrounded Ewell's Corps. [illegible] fierce action the Confederates were overpowered. Ewell, other generals, and several thousand men were captured. This was the last major engagement between Lee's and Grant's armies."

After the Battle of Sayler's Creek, General Phil Sheridan wired General Ulysses S. Grant, "If the thing is pressed, I think Lee will surrender." When this word was relayed to President Abraham Lincoln in Washington, he telegraphed to Grant, "Let the thing be pressed." The next day General Grant, from his headquarters in Farmville, Virginia, sent his first not to General Lee mentioning surrender.

This last pitched battle of the war was fought by a band of gallant Confederates who were but a shadow of the Army of Northern Virginia which not quite two years before had invaded Pennsylvania and threatened Philadelphia and Baltimore. They had been in the trenches on short rations for nearly a year. In spite of this, they were in good spirits when they marched out of Petersburg and Richmond on April 2, hoping to receive rations at Amelia Courthouse. But the rations were not there. This caused a day's delay while the countryside was foraged for food for men and horses, but little food was to be found. When they stumbled into battle on the banks of the swollen Sayler's Creek, they were overcome with fatigue from four days and nights of almost constant marching, the last two days with nothing to eat. The march was a nightmare of hunger, exhaustion and despair. On April 4 a heavy rain had begun, making the roads almost impassable.

Any army in this condition was likely to stumble into some error that would cost it dearly, and that was what happened this April 6, known thereafter as the Black Thursday of the Confederacy. The Confederate Army had been constantly harassed on its flanks by the Federal Cavalry as it marched along, stopping to fight endless skirmishes. When they reached the vicinity of Sayler's Creek the wagons and artillery were sent by another road, and a gap appeared between the first troops led by General James Longstreet and the following corps commanded by General R. S. Ewell. The Federal Army discovered this gap in the forces and swept in between the advance army and the troops led by General Ewell, followed by the wagons and General John B. Gordon's rearguard brigade, cutting them off from the rest of the Confederate Army. A fierce battle ensued, the Confederates attacking the Federal troops and wiping out their center line, even though fighting without artillery. However, they were surrounded by the attacking right and left flanks of the opposing forces and were withered by enemy artillery fire.

General Lee had left Petersburg and Richmond with about 28,000 to 30,000 troops pursued by 100,000 Federals. Grant's pursuit was swift, powerful and relentless. If Lee had been able to ration his troops at Amelia Courthouse, he would have been able to push his way through Sheridan's opposition and march to Danville. Then he would have joined his army with that of General Joseph Johnston in North Carolina and been in a position to defeat first General William T. Sherman and then Grant before they had a chance to combine their armies. The losses at the Battle of Sayler's Creek left Lee without an effective fighting force. Some historians have written that General Lee planned to get rations for his army at Appomattox Station and then marched on to Lynchburg for further supplies, from which location he would march through Campbell County Courthouse and on to North Carolina. However, this was not to be.

Attrition had done its work. The banners of the Army of Northern Virginia were furled, its career ended, but the records of its achievements glow with undiminished splendor down to the present day.

Band Boosters to meet

The Appomattox County Band Boosters will meet Monday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at the high school.

The boosters encourage everyone to support the marching band by attending the Farmville Christmas parade Sunday, December 6. The band received the first place award presented to band units in the parade last year.

'Pearl' Day remembered

Monday, Dec. 7, 1981, marks the fortieth anniversary of the infamous attack by the Japanese fleet on the U. S. military forces at Pearl Harbor.

The attack precipitated this country's entry into World War II.

"All Americans should reflect on this tragic event in our history, remembering those who lost their lives in that raid, and give thanks that we have not had another such attack," says Dennis Gragg, Post Commander of Appomattox American Legion Post 104.

"Only the fact that we have tried to be better prepared, militarily, has prevented other aggressors from attempting to launch another sneak attack," according to Gragg.

Gragg says that all businesses in Appomattox and private individuals in Appomattox County should fly the flag on Pearl Harbor Day.

Persons needing to purchase flags may contact the American Legion, post 104, care of Cliff Harvey or Ronnie Spiggle (352-7111)

Darkleaf still recovering

Calvin Robinson, author of the popular front-page column "Father Darkleaf" is still recovering from a bout with arthritis and was unable to write his column again this week.

Robinson said Monday, "it is a slow process, but my arthritic condition is improved. Maybe can resume writing next week.

Thanks to everyone who sent fruit, cards, and telephone calls. Appomattox is no. 1 on Santa's list."

"Father Darkleaf" is the longest-running weekly newspaper column in thne state of Virginia.

Robinson is former editor and publisher of the Times-Virginian.

Dick Carter honored by SAYF

The 1981 recipient of the Southside Area Young Farmers Honorary Membership Richard B. Carter, has rendered outstanding service to the Young Farmers of Virginia for nearly three decades.

He is a native of Appomattox County where he received his elementary and secondary education. He earned the B.S. degree in agricultural education at Virginia Tech. After serving with distinction as an officer in the Korean War, he returned to his alma mater and completed his M. S. degree. He is now studying on a part-time basis toward the Ed. D. Degree.

He served as an instructor in agricultural education in the Bluestone and Appomattox high schools. He has been a local YF advisor and served on numerous area and state YF and YH committees. He is currently director of vocational education in Appomattox County. In this position, he actively supports the advisor of the Appomattox Young Farmers and provides valuable assistance to the area organization.

LOUIS INGRAM, president of the Southside Area Young Farmers (right) presents certificate of honorary membership to Richard Carter of Appomattox.

Lions Club to meet

The Appomattox Lions Club will meet on Thursday, December 3 at 6:45 in the evening at the John Mosby Inn Restaurant.

The club will be entertaining the Appomattox County High School football team and coaches.

Guest speaker will be Danny Williams, offensive line coach of James Madison University, Harrisonburg.

All members are urged to attend.

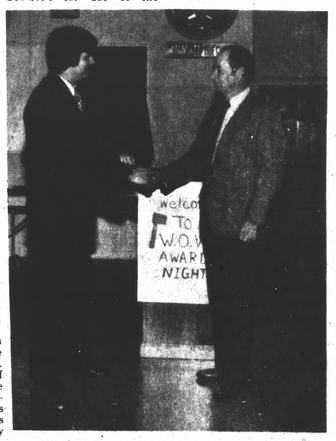
BOBBY WADDELL, member of Camp 71 Degree Team is pictured presenting the Conservation Award to Elliott Torrence. Pictured also is Lorraine Torrence.

WOW awards received

WOW Camp 71 and Grove 6073 held its Annual Awards Night at the WOW hall on Monday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m. Cecil W. Deaner, president of Camp 71 presided over the meeting. Many past recipients of the Outstanding Citizenship Award and Conservation Awards were present for this impressive meeting.

Also present were twenty members of the Woodmen of the World who have been members for 25 years or more they were presented 25 years membership cards and pins.

A special part of the award's night was dedicated to our late and fellow sovereign John T. Hall. John was active part of Camp 71 and served on the degree team in state competition as well as regular meetings for the past 14 years. "John was loved and will be greatly missed by his fellow sovereigns. Another tree has fallen in the forest of woodcraft but his memories will live on."



PICTURED ABOVE is Cecil W. Deaner, president of Camp 71 presenting Otho W. Martin, Jr., the Outstanding Citizenship Award.

Secretary-Treasurer

Mays elected to CRAV position

By BILL SHERROD

Monte Mays of Appomattox has been elected secretary-treasurer of the Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia.

Mays was honored with the election at the 62nd Anniversary Convention of the association in Hampton.

The association, comprised of 95 counties and 41 cities, each year elects officers. Ivan D. Mapp of Virginia Beach is the outgoing secretary-treasurer of the association.

Mays says serving as secretary-treasurer will benefit him because it will give him direct contact with every Commissioner of the Revenue in the state.

"There are times when a relatively new commissioner, like myself, might have questions concerning how to handle situations which arise in the office. It's at these times that the direct contact with other commissioners across the state, including the more experienced ones, is a great benefit to the Appomattox office," Mays notes.

Monte Mays

He cited as an example the recent transfer of the county deeds onto microfilm, an idea Mays says he got from the Commissioner of the Revenue's office in Lunenburg County.

"Now the time that the microfilm system saves can be spent in other areas here," Mays points out.

"The contact and the assistance these people, (other Commissioners of the Revenue) offer enables the Appomattox office to operate in a more efficient and effective manner," Mays says.

"as a result," he continues, "we can keep the budget of the Commissioner of the Revenue's office low.....We already have one of the lowest budgets in the state of Virginia, and I intend to keep it that way."

Mays says that Calvin L. Marcum of Norton was elected president of the Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia at the meeting in Hampton.

Next year's meeting of the association will be held in Roanoke, according to Mays.

Mays was elected Commissioner of the Revenue in Appomattox County in 1977.

Athletic Boosters to meet

The Athletic Boosters Club will meet on Monday evening, December 7 at 7:30 in the Appomattox County High School Library.

Members are urged to attend.

WOW dinner slated

Members of the Woodmen of the World and their spouses are invited to attend our Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the WOW Building.

The ladies are asked to bring their favorite dessert.

Canneries close

Canneries located in the towns of Appomattox and Pamplin will close on Friday, December 18. However, actual days of operation in the month of December will depend upon appointments made to use the canneries. Appointments may be made during operation hours of the canneries by calling 352-2222 in Appomattox or 248-6191 in Pamplin. When the canneries are not in operation, call Mrs. Grace Williams at 248 5794 for use of the Appomattox Cannery and Mrs. Phyllis Richardson at 248-5364 for use of the Pamplin Cannery.

The cooperation of persons who would like to use the canning facilities for meats and lard during the month of December will greatly help in operating efficiency as possible. Cannery persons wish to accomodate everyone that wants to process food during the remainder of the canning season.